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## Intimations.

## DAKIN, CRICKSHANK &amp; COMPANY, LIMITED.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.  
CONFECTIONERY, &c.

WE have just received our New Stock of CONFECTIONERY and are offering the same at prices suitable for the present bad times:—

CHOCOLATE CREMES.  
PATES D'APRICOT.  
CHOCOLATE ALMONDS.  
FANCY BOXES OF SWEETS of various kinds from 2 Dollars to 25 Cents.  
SUGARED ALMONDS.  
BURNT ALMONDS.  
MIXED SWEETS.  
TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS.CIGARETTE CASES, CIGAR CASES, CARD CASES.  
In SILVER, ELECTRO, SNAKE SKIN, RUSSIAN LEATHER, &c.  
CIGAR & CIGARETTE HOLDERS, PIPES.  
Hongkong, 13th November, 1893. [18]

## S. WATSON &amp; CO., LD.

WE INVITE ATTENTION TO OUR STOCKS

OF

CONFECTIONERY  
AND  
CHRISTMAS GOODS.JORDAN ALMONDS, NOUGAT, BUTTER  
SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFEES,  
DRAGEES, FRALINES,  
and a large selection  
of  
PURE CONFECTIONERY  
from the leading Manufacturers.CADBURY'S SPECIAL  
CHOCOLATE CREMES.PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME, GUAVA,  
and other  
FRUIT JELLIES  
in great variety.TOM SMITH'S  
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

## COLOURED OPALS

MOUNTED IN PLUSH,  
representing favourite subjects.A Large Assortment of  
ENGLISH AND JAPANESE CHRISTMAS  
CARDS,of handsome and artistic designs, suitable to all  
tastes and at moderate prices.A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
The Hongkong Dispensary.  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
Hongkong, 3rd November, 1893. [15]

## BIRTH.

On the 21st instant, at Halphong, Tonkin, the  
wife of Mr. STEPHEN ROUS, of a son.

## MARRIAGE.

At St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, on the 14th  
November, GEORGE, son of R. S. GUNDRY, to  
ALICE CECILIA, only daughter of the late WILLIAM  
HARRIS.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1893.

## THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Sanitary Board of Hongkong is an institution whose doings are not usually of any public interest whatever—as instanced by the fact that the reports of its meetings form the driest of all the dry rot published by our contemporaries, and never published by ourselves simply because a real newspaper prefers to print something that people like to read. However, lately the Sanitary Board, perhaps under the impression that nobody would know or dare to complain, has been actually doing something; not in the direction of sanitary work—that is all done by a fairly capable staff of officers; and would be done just as well by them if they had no Board to interfere. What the Board has been doing, and seems to be inclined to do again, is in an entirely different direction—simply deliberate jobbery. When first the Board was constituted, it was decided that its Secretary ought to be a man with some knowledge of sanitary work, some professional training and education and experience that would make him at

home in the details of the work and of use to the Board as a sort of adviser; and this principle had always been maintained until Mr. McALLUM, the present Secretary, went home on leave early this year. On a previous occasion his mantle had fallen on the shoulders of the Government Analyst; but this time Mr. W. E. CAOW was alone at the Hospital, his assistant Mr. LUCAS being on leave. As a matter of fact, Mr. CAOW is one of those energetic men, of whom we could name a very few in the Hongkong service, who can take on an apparently unlimited amount of work, and seem to thrive all the better for it; and he would have been perfectly well able to do all the work, for a few months at any rate, though not required to do so permanently. But it so happened that there was a "corresponding clerk" in the P.W.D. who wanted a change, as Mr. COOPER, Director of Public Works, found him useless, though Mr. BROWN, the late Surveyor-General, had thought it necessary to create the berth. Mr. A. H. RENNIE's original appointment caused a great deal of adverse comment, and it is no secret that the present head of the P.W.D. (then only a subordinate) disappeared strongly of it, and on coming into power was openly in favour of abolishing the unnecessary post whenever possible. Now, therefore, was a good chance; Mr. RENNIE was a man who had no special training, and therefore was just the sort of man the Hongkong Government loves to put to special work. That is why a man like Mr. HORSPOOL was not made Captain-Superintendent of Police—just because he was specially fitted and trained for the post. That is why a German who cannot speak English is Inspector of Schools. That is why a hopelessly obtuse obliivianiac was made Colonial Treasurer. That is why the best lawyer in Hongkong and the cleverest man in the Civil Service was not made Police Judge. That is why scores of other stupid things were done, and sensible things not done, and why the Secretaryship of the Sanitary Board was given to Fortune's (?) favourite, Mr. A. HERBERT RENNIE.

But now the fat is in the fire all round. Mr. RENNIE has not shown sufficient ability to keep even on good terms with those about him, and so nasty remarks have been made. It became known to the higher authorities that Mr. RENNIE had, ever since joining the Service, been also doing private work for a Canadian flour agency, with which he was connected before he joined. It happens to be one of the sternest dogmas of the Civil Service that every officer is so hard worked that he has no time for anything else; so this was an awful revelation, and Mr. RENNIE resigned.

Now who will take his place till Mr. McALLUM comes back? Not Mr. CAOW—he is suited for the place, by his professional qualifications, and his long practical experience; the old argument about his assistant being away no longer exists; so of course he will not be appointed. The next in succession is Mr. C. V. LADD, at present Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, who has already earned the highest praise from the Colonial Surgeon (see annual report for 1892) and from every body else who has any knowledge of his work; he is almost as well qualified for the special work of the Sanitary Board as Mr. CAOW; and so, naturally, he will not be appointed. No, the post is to be awarded, at the dictation of GRANTY SHARP, the philanthropist of the Far East, to Mr. E. A. RAM, a book-keeper, or common office clerk, who is no longer wanted in SHARP &amp; Co.'s office. He is of course a total stranger to sanitary work, and it is asserted that he has lately bought a dictionary to find what "sanitary" means. That is a mistake on his part; he would please the Government better by adhering to his native ignorance, and this rash step might be fatal. For his appointment has not yet been gazetted; up to the time of writing, we believe, nothing has been done beyond sending in his application and turning on the flood of backstairs influence, which Mr. G. SHARP knows well how to use—as in the "Buffet" case. But it is a guinea to a gooseberry that Mr. RAM will be appointed, simply because he is the most unsuitable man that could possibly be found.

## TELEGRAMS.

## STORMS IN EUROPE.

LONDON, November 19th, 1893.  
Terrible gales have swept the coast of Great Britain and Ireland, resulting in numerous wrecks. The loss of life so far reported amounts to eighty-five.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Chinese cruiser Kwong Kip, Kwong Ping and Kwong Hui arrived here this afternoon from Amoy.

SIX WILLIAM and Lady Robinson returned to Shanghai from Hankow by the British steamer Payang on the 16th inst.

H.M.S. Imperieuse left Kobe for Hongkong, via Nagasaki and Port Hamilton, at 4.45 on the morning of the 16th inst.

AN Emergency meeting of Zealand Lodge No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

It does not seem to be generally known, says the Japan Mail, that Russia has ample supplies of coal in Vladivostok. Fifty or sixty miles from that port there are rich veins of anthracite coal, worked by English machinery and Chinese labour, and according to the latest accounts, they will be able to become a large source of national wealth in that region. It is expected that the Imperial fleet in the North Pacific will draw its supplies from this source, and they, as a Russian writer recently observed, will consequently have the formidable advantage which Vancouver Island gives to the British naval force in the same region of the Pacific.

MESSRS. "BONAVIDES," Lavandera & Co., and the sequel of the *Taipei* business, are unavoidably held over.

"On account of its scarcity," says the Japan Gazette, "coal has risen 50 cents per ton in this port." The Japan Gazette is published in Yokohama.

Two fishing junks yesterday towed into Aberdeen Bay a large trading junk which they had picked up outside, waterlogged and helpless. No loss of life is reported.

A YOKOHAMA paper states that there are at present about 1,500 prisoners in the Prefectural Jail at Tokyo, of which over 200 are awaiting trial. That knocks Hongkong clean out of time.

THE part mutual at the Yokohama races, if the powers that may be so kind as to average the princely sum of about \$400,000, is too about for that sort of luxury. The Yokohama sports must work up ten-cent syndicates.

OWING to a Chinese boy smoking in bed, a fire broke out part of No. 9, Tannery Lane this morning, one of the tenants breaking his leg through doing the "big drop act" out of a third storey window. Damage nominal. No insurance.

MR. W. M. B. ARTHUR's quarters at the Magistracy became the scene of a "rush" by the Fire Brigade this morning. No harm done; only a frying-pan of "sossingers" damaged through the kitchen chimney (which was swept in the year 1) catching fire.

THE nucleus of the library to be established by the "Job Lots" has now arrived from home, and consists of a very good selection of miscellaneous works, which may be seen at the rooms so kindly placed at the Society's disposal by Dr. Canille, the genial president.

THE Steamboat Co.'s vessels are doing double duty at present on the Canton route owing to the *Honam*, which left for the Holy City at 3 o'clock this afternoon, having been put on the Macao line, vice the *Huangshan*, which has gone over to Kowloon Dock for the usual annual overhaul.

A CORRESPONDENT of our Shanghai morning contemporary thinks that the Shanghai and Shanghai Bank should be reminded that the Jubilee Year all debts were remitted. He says that if the Bank would carry out this injunction of the Levitical law, it would make it much more of a Jubilee to a great many people.

WE note that our old friend "Johnny" Sousa has been more than holding his own at the recent meetings in Yokohama of the Nippon Race Club. In addition to other important events, Mr. de Sousa won the Meiji Cup with *Sagres*, ridden by Mr. Kobayashi, thus securing a pair of priceless *Christened* vases, presented by the Mikado.

THE band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock:—

Overture—"The King of the Romans"—Williams.  
Selection—"The Mikado"—Williams.  
Selection—"The Mikado"—Williams.  
Selection—"The Mikado"—Williams.  
Barn Dance—"A Midsummer Night"—Williams.THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that the Osaka Mercantile Shipping Company has intimated to Messrs. Dowdell, Carill & Co., that they will pay  $\yen25,000$  to the latter firm for the total damage sustained by the *Daiichi-shiro*, caused by collision with the *Yoshikawa Maru* in the port of Kobe, and negotiations are now being made between the two parties. It is stated that the matter is likely to be compromised without recourse to law.

THE "Winter Show," to be opened in San Francisco next month, promises to be a great success. Among the numerous exhibits the Chinese will be conspicuous, vying with their Eastern neighbours for first honours in many commercial branches, especially in the matter of fishing apparatus. A Chinese theatre will have a place in the show, and the management of a leading Chinese tragedian who will shortly take over to the States a troupe of actors selected in Canton, Hongkong and neighbouring southern ports.

THE *Finch* *Gazette* of November 8th amusingly remarks:—"Harmston's Circus Company has been strengthened by the arrival from Singapore this morning, by a party of twelve, of a couple of lady and gentlemen performers, one of whom is Miss Eliza Bailey, the dancing equitienne. Eleven more cages of animals belonging to the company have also arrived, consisting of two large tigers, five pole-cats, two bears, three leopards, seven monkeys, three cheetahs, two sacred bulls and one American elk. There will be a matinee performance to-morrow."THUS the *Kobe Chronicle* of November 14th:—"Some time since an endeavour was made by a Chinese living in Osaka to obtain workmen for Hongkong to start a match factory. This coming to the knowledge of the manufacturers, they used every effort to prevent these workmen from leaving the country, and eventually succeeded in their object. A factory was nevertheless established at Hongkong, presumably with Chinese labour, and recently no less than 100 tons of match-boxes have been exported from Kobe to that port. This has alarmed the local manufacturers, who profess to fear that Japanese trade-marks will be put on inferior qualities. They have therefore determined to boycott the Chinese who is the Osaka agent for the Hongkong firm, and will not use more materials for match-making. It seems hardly credible that Japanese business men can really believe that, by refusing to supply certain materials, they will stop the working of such a factory or reap any benefit themselves. All that will happen will be that the Hongkong manufacturer will be supplied from other quarters, and the Chinese merchants will not only have a competitor in the China markets, but will lose the profit on supplying the necessary materials."

THE famous Geary (Chinese Exclusion) Act has been so amended that the registration feature will not place much restraint upon Chinese entering the United States. The requirement of a white witness to the fact that a Chinaman is lawfully in the country has been stricken out. The term "Chinese laborer" has been defined, presumably to mean a laborer for hire. All laborers may enter except those who propose to work for wages. When Governor Cleveland was asked as to what a "Chinese laborer" was, he said: "A fellow who is not a citizen."

The Japanese Consul at Yokohama has been so amended that the registration feature will not place much restraint upon Chinese entering the United States. The requirement of a white witness to the fact that a Chinaman is lawfully in the country has been stricken out. The term "Chinese laborer" has been defined, presumably to mean a laborer for hire. All laborers may enter except those who propose to work for wages. When Governor Cleveland was asked as to what a "Chinese laborer" was, he said: "A fellow who is not a citizen."

At the Magistracy to-day, before Capt. Hastings, R.N., a quartermaster on the *Empress of India* received the phenomenally harsh sentence of \$30 or 40 weeks in all, for being drunk and disorderly on board, and threatening and abusing the second officer.THREE Japanese women, who stowed away on board the P. & O. steamer *Assaya*, to avoid the Japanese law against the trade in prostitution abroad, were brought up in the police court to-day and fined \$5 each, which they paid; they also paid their fares, and now they are settled in Hongkong.

It will be noted with pleasure that the band of the Hongkong Regiment, which has been energetically working under Mr. Murphy, of the Shropshire Regiment, has now attained such a high degree of excellence that the dusky musicians are to take their place side by side—metaphorically at any rate—with their British exemplars at the Christmas Gynkhana.

OUR excellent Yokohama contemporary the *Japan Mail* publishes an item of news the interesting fact that the ladies of the Kofu School (Heavenly Blessing) have contributed \$10 and Mrs. Sharland, of Shimonoseki (good old gal) \$4 in aid of the Okakura Inaoka Fund. Thirty-five bob and a special paragraph for the benefit of whole-souled philanthropy. Next, please!

We had the pleasure of a call this morning from Mr. C. F. Tremlett, British Consul at Saigon and head partner of the well-known firm of W. G. Hale &amp; Co. Mr. Tremlett, who is one of the oldest of Far Eastern residents, wears well and looks as fresh as a two-year-old. He has promised to take us to Angkor Wat one of these fine days, and we looked to be on the spot when time is called.

THE huge programme arranged by the energetic Gynkhana Committee for December 22nd and 23rd will be found in our advertising columns. None can fail to commend honest attempts to cater for public amusement; but as to the "Late-Late-dinner" race we really must beg leave to suggest an improvement. The competitors have to do a little riding and then get into dress suits and then to them by ladies; but the trousers are omitted!

THE *Japan Mail*, the eminent Yokohama journal whose accomplished Editor led us a bit of a wild-goose chase to the North the other day, is not happy in its references to the late Mr. John MacGregor. The deceased gentleman was not, as stated by the Yokohama paper, "for many years past a leading partner of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. in Shanghai," and he did not die of malaria fever or anything like it. Nor had he anything whatever to do with public life in the Far East for many years after his arrival in China, some twenty-two years ago. Mr. MacGregor was a resident in this colony for at least a dozen years, and yet he was never once known as a public man. The suggestion is obvious. He did capital work in Shanghai, was an efficient speaker, a conscientious worker and an able administrator to the extent of his somewhat limited capacity, and that is all. The fact that he has been about him since his death borders on the burlesque.

## SUPREME COURT.

## IN CRIMINAL SESSION.

(Before Chief Justice Fielding Clarke).

November 21st.

## ASK A PRISONER.

Lung Tak was charged with offering \$4.20 to a Chinese constable named Li Chung in order to avoid prosecution for gambling. The following journeyman presented himself:—

M. Botelho, H. B. Bridger, J. L. Barker, D. L. J. Allen, H. U. Jeffries, C. M. Roberts, F. A. Brown.

The Attorney General, Mr. W. M. Goodman, in stating the case for the Crown, said that Chinese coolies were "somewhat inveterate" gamblers, and carried on their pastime about the Douglas Wharf a great deal. Gambling was extremely difficult to deal with; at one time in Hongkong it was regulated and licensed, and the proceeds of the fees were given to charity; then it was ordered to be suppressed, both in houses and in the street, and there was a class dealing with the "watchmen" often employed to warn street gamblers on the approach of the police. Whether the policy of suppressing gambling was right or not, such was the law; and it naturally opened out a field for bribery. Several such cases had occurred lately, and it was essential, for the preservation of honesty in the police force, that examples should be made. Bribery was exceedingly difficult to prove, from the very nature and mode of the offence, and juries sometimes gave too little thought to the evidence, "let the prisoner have the benefit of the doubt," and so decided wrongly. The evidence went to show that the constable in this case had one day tried to arrest a crowd of street gamblers, but failed to catch them; next day the prisoner, one of the gamblers, spoke to the constable, offering him £100, and the constable was asked to stop the gambling; and the man handed over a packet containing half a month's bribe, or \$4.20. The officer took the packet in one hand and seized the prisoner with the other hand, and went off to the Central Station with them.

Li Chung, police constable, gave evidence in accordance with the statements of counsel. Some of the articles required as evidence were not to be found when wanted. The Crown Solicitor ought to look after these things better, and I have spoken strongly to him. I cannot speak any more on the subject. It is exceedingly important that all exhibits should be kept under lock and key, and produced in their original state. The Magistrate's clerk should have his attention officially drawn to this matter.

A little later his lordship said it turned out to be the fault of the Registry, and the Magistrate ultimately it appeared that the particular thing wanted had never had any existence at all. In the depositions of the case, the \$4.20 was stated to be in a packet, and his lordship was asked the wrapper; but as a matter of fact it was \$1.30 in silver wrapped up in two \$1 notes.

On the conclusion of the evidence his lordship summed up, stating that the jury must disabuse their minds of any false impression which might have been created by the Attorney-General's remarks as to juries not having examined the evidence sufficiently in previous cases of this sort, and having given wrong verdicts. That had not been his lordship's experience of juries in this court. He himself had always endeavored to ensure the full and free examination of every case, and was satisfied that the juries that had done with cases of this description had given them every consideration; he had no reason to believe they had given wrong verdicts. It was possible enough that cases of real bribery had gone unproven, but not through any fault of the juries; there had been too much weakness in the cases as presented.

The jury after a short deliberation unanimously convicted the prisoner.

His lordship reserved sentence until next Friday, when all the juries are requested to attend.

## IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Puisne Judge.)

## LANDLORD AND TENANT.

A. R. Madar sued W. Jackson for damage alleged to have been caused by defendant to fittings, etc. when vacating plaintiff's house. Mr. H. E. Pollock was for the plaintiff and Mr. H. L. Deane for the defendant.

Plaintiff stated that defendant had been his tenant at Kowloon. When Mr. Jackson left the house he took a stove-pipe away, and afterwards a number of flower-pots were found to be broken, and others taken away; a concrete pathway was broken, and some trees had been removed; the gate was broken, and also the door of the bath-room. The damage in the garden had probably been partly caused by defendant's pony and trap. Details of other damage were given in full.

Cross-examined:—There had been a little dispute between them as to damage caused by the typhoon; defendant wrote complaining that the roof had not been kept in repair, though timely complaint had been made, and so during the typhoon a lot of rain got in and damaged Mr. and Mrs. Jackson's clothing. Defendant therefore declined to pay the rent until it was made good. The plaintiff replied, denying that any complaint had been made about the roof, or that any material damage had been done. The present claim was for damage done by defendant. Witness did not see him do it. The damage alleged to have been done in the garden could not be due to the typhoon. Witness denied that any wood-work about the house was useless through dry rot.

Charles Perkins, of Messrs. Gaupp &amp; Co., said he knew the house in question, and had seen the damage done. Witness took a photograph of the west door, showing a hole about four inches square where the lock had been removed. Witness saw Mr. Jackson removing bricks from the wall at the gate, in order to widen the entrance and admit his trap freely. The bricks formerly did not admit of the gate being opened so wide. Witness saw coolies removing a few-hundred, for which witness had purchased about half of the wire two years ago for \$12; it had subsequently passed through several hands.

Cross-examined:—Witness was intending to take the house as tenant; nothing had been said by Mr. Madar as to the amount of rent depending on this case. Witness would not pay more than \$35 a month. Witness had been a friend of Mr. Jackson, but on seeing the damage, he thought it was very unfair to the landlord. Mr. Jackson told witness that the lock on the west door belonged to him, and if he had to leave it he would either break the spring or lose the key. Witness, wanting to take the house, was annoyed at the lock being removed and the damage done; and on Sunday last he took the photographs. Witness did not know that any of the plants removed had been given to Mrs. Jackson by the Lady Superior of the Italian Convent. Witness knew that the typhoons of September and October did a lot of damage, and the missing trees might have been blown down by it. Though witness was intending to take the house, it had been advertised "to let" while the case was pending. By the Court:—The typhoon trees expected to have been blown down, as there was no hole as if they had been dug out or torn up.

A. F. Wilson, assistant to Mr. W. W. Brewer, said he knew the house lately occupied by defendant. Since then he had seen that two or three locks had been gone, gates were broken, bathroom doors broken, hen-house wire-netting taken off, and other damage done. On adjourning at 5 o'clock his lordship said his advice to the parties was to settle the case, and it was ultimately adjourned until Friday next.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## POST OFFICE NEGLIGENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—From time to time I have observed that you draw attention to carelessness and negligence on the part of the local Post Office officials, but never, I believe, has the impudence of Downing Street puppets been more clearly exposed than in respect to the damaged mails received by the English Mail steamer *Rosetta* on Sunday last. Had it not been for the information gathered, presumably by reporters, and supplied to the public through your paper last night, and the other local journals, few people—amongst them myself—would have had the slightest notion that letters for which they were on the look-out might be lying in the Post Office in a more or less sorry condition, some of the addresses being even effaced owing to the mail-room of the *Rosetta* having been washed out on the run up from Singapore. Whether or not any letters were washed overboard is unknown and for such possible contingency the Post Office cannot, of course, be held responsible, but it was clearly within the province of the Hongkong Postmaster to make known to the public, through the medium of the local press, the fact that the mail had suffered damage, and have invited those who might be expecting letters by the *Rosetta* to call at the Post Office to look for their correspondence. So far from this being done the public have not been officially notified on the subject, and as I state, scarcely a soul would have known anything had gone wrong had not the papers reported the matter. Now, is this the proper way for the public, who are heavily taxed for the support of this official agency of Community, to be treated? Is not this an example either of culpable negligence of the public's interests or short-sighted incompetence and glaring lack of knowledge of the elementary principles of the duties attaching to the responsible position of Postmaster General? The cutting down of reckless expenditure of public funds is laudable when practiced within reasonable limits, but the parsimony of the Acting Postmaster has, I submit, been carried to an extreme in this instance, which borders on gross disrespect towards the whole community. True, the Post Office was robbed of a good many dollars by the venalite Burradas, and as all taxpayers know, the Treasury was "gone through" by the equally notorious Alves, but if the P.M.G. seeks to make up for the disastrous results of incompetence by hare-brained parsimony he is absurdly travelling of dangerous ground and acting in a manner calculated to bring ridicule and contempt upon the Administration. It is the demonstrations of exasperating negligence of this kind that causes many of us to look forward to the time when our Imperial taskmasters will be caused to slacken their galling grip and make room for practical men who are able to earn their living anywhere—men who would not starve in the gutters of our big cities were they bent of official patronage and compelled to go out into the world and earn their living by hard and honest labor.

Thanking you in anticipation for publishing this protest,

Yours faithfully,  
A RESIDENT.  
Hongkong, 21st November, 1893.

(We are generally adverse to publishing inflammatory communications, even signed)

erring officialdom, in the correspondence columns of this journal; but under all circumstances we feel bound to give "A Resident" the full length of his letter. The management of the Hongkong Post Office has become a public scandal, and should at once be remedied.—Ed., H.K. Telegraph.]

## AMOF NOTES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Amoy, 18th November, 1893.  
The British steamer *Peris* put in here on the 16th inst., owing to having sustained some defect about her rudder-head. She is now in the hands of the local Dock Company for necessary repairs. The *Peris* is on a voyage from Cronstadt to Vladivostok with a cargo of over 3000 tons of rails and railway plant, and has been out seventy-two days. From Singapore to Amoy she took seventeen days, so at this rate of speed she will be in good time for the opening of Vladivostok next year! It looks an impossible job for her to arrive this season.The British steamer *Lier*, with kerosene oil from Batavia, via Swatow, and consigned to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., has arrived here. The direct trade in kerosene seems to be growing rapidly, as this is the third steamer in addition to the large sailing ships, we have had here within the last six months. The *Lier* leaves here to-day to discharge the balance of her cargo in Foochow. Thence, I hear, she proceeds to Moll under charter to Mr. John Andrew of your port. Nothing else worth reporting at present.

## THE BANGKOK LIBEL CASE.

In the British Consular Court at Bangkok on November 8th, Mr. E. B. Michell applied on behalf of Mr. J. J. Lillie, Editor of the *Siam Free Press*, for letters of request to examine various witnesses in Paris, Brussels, and Saigon, in connection with the libel action brought by Mr. Rollin-Jacquemyns, foreign adviser to the Siam Government.Mr. Michell put in the affidavits of the defendant and Mr. Broya in support. The former stated that the imputations contained in Mr. Broya's letter, and complained of by the plaintiff, were in the defendant's belief true and fair, but that to prove this it was necessary to have the evidence of various persons in Paris, Brussels, and Saigon, who were acquainted with the plaintiff's antecedents, and who could show that although statements similar to those now complained of had been published in the *Siets*, *Gl*, *Blas*, the *Figaro*, and other journals, the plaintiff had taken no action against those papers. It was also stated that M. Le Myre de Vilers, late Minister Plenipotentiary for France in Siam, could give important evidence as to Mr. Jacquemyns's application for the position of legal adviser to M. de Mayreana (late "King of the Siam") and on other matters. Mr. Broya's affidavit alleged that the writer was the author of the alleged libel, which was to the best of his knowledge and belief true, and that the evidence referred to, which he believed could be got in Paris, was necessary for the purpose of defending the case.

The plaintiff, in a counter affidavit, stated that the motion was only an attempt to gain evidence, and to indefinitely delay the hearing of the action. He nevertheless agreed to the fullest inquiry regarding his career, and into the truth or falsity of the libel, provided that the defendant set out plainly and exactly what he expected the witnesses in question to prove; that a reasonable limit to the period of the inquiry should be fixed, and leave obtained for the cross-examination of the witnesses; and that security for the additional costs be given.

Mr. Michell, in supporting the motion, said that the evidence on which the defendant relied was only obtainable in Paris, or Belgium, or Saigon, where there were people who knew the plaintiff and Mr. Frere Orban, owing to their public positions. How could the defendant bring any evidence to justify his publication of the statement that the plaintiff had "raised difficulties on the part of the European Powers," unless he interrogated certain witnesses in Paris to show that Mr. Jacquemyns was called to order at a public banquet for using offensive expressions, calculated to raise such difficulties?

His Honour:—This dinner was in Paris? But you say in your article "since your arrival in Bangkok" &amp;c. Do you desire to go into this question of raising difficulties with other countries?

Mr. Michell:—We have a right to show what difficulties have been raised before.

His Honour:—No, we must keep to the allegations.

Mr. Michell:—That is not so important as the other part, relating to Bangkok. The evidence of Mr. de Vilers will certainly be very important. It isn't our fault that we have to go into these matters—it would have been very much better to keep them in their proper place, but if the plaintiff insists we must go into them, and show that a libel was raised. It is entirely for Mr. de Vilers to say whether such things were done or not; he was here, and in a thoroughly good position to know. With regard to the sentence about Mr. Jacquemyns being the secret agent of the English in Egypt and here, how can we get evidence on that in Bangkok?

His Honour:—Are you seriously going to try to prove that?

Mr. Michell:—We want to bring some sort of evidence, since the other side have mentioned it. It isn't our fault that the defendant who mentioned it.

His Honour:—Yes, but you also say that the plaintiff was a secret agent, Mr. Michell.

Mr. Michell:—And he says it is untrue.

His Honour:—Well, are you going to bring evidence that he was?

Mr. Michell:—We have a right to know if it is true or not.

His Honour:—Yes, but are you going to prove it is true.

His Honour:—Yes, and I ask—Are you going to prove it?

Mr. Michell:—Well, I should not argue it myself.

His Honour:—Perhaps you had better not say very much about that point.

Mr. Michell:—It is not so much a question of how we wish to conduct the defence as one of whether we are entitled to be furnished with the necessary evidence. It might turn out that we had evidence sufficiently strong to go into that matter, although I don't see any probability of that. But I think we are entitled to know what our evidence is, and to get it into shape, and then afterwards, if we don't find it sufficient, of course we can drop it. It is not for the plaintiff to refuse evidence—indeed we gather from his own affidavit that he does not wish to do so. If we comply with certain provisions, we are ready to say what the proper part of our interrogatories will be, and if there is any improper question in them it can be cut out. People don't go to this trouble to ask for commissions unless they really have evidence to get. We cannot go into this matter properly without this evidence, as the other side seem







